



The new ELF website: sharing our scientific expertise with the public



EUROPEAN
LUNG FOUNDATION

THE ELF



patients to read. You and your patients can also sign up to our database to receive an e-newsletter and regular information.

In addition to the English-language site, seven further language sites (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Polish and Greek) will be developed during 2006, to allow the dissemination of information throughout Europe.

To complement the new website, and starting from the March issue, the ELF will be introducing a “Lung information” patient and general public education factsheet series into *Breathe*, the ERS educational journal. This factsheet will be removable, so that recipients of the journal will be able to cut out, copy and offer it to their patients.

We hope that the new website and the factsheet series will prove to be a benefit to you and your patients.

Laurent P. Nicod
ELF Chair

As the ELF is the public voice of the ERS, we would like to invite all ERS Members to contact us with any comments or suggestions about the contents of the ELF website: elf@ersnet.org

The European Lung Foundation (ELF) is the public voice of the European Respiratory Society (ERS). It was established to serve the European Community by sharing the scientific expertise of the ERS with the public.

The ELF has been involved in several projects, such as the spirometry tent and the Small White Book “*Lung Health in Europe: Facts and figures*”, which have increased public awareness and knowledge about respiratory diseases and their impact on individuals and on Europe as a whole. However, as was evident from the omission of respiratory diseases from the preliminary version of the European Research Framework Programme (FP7), these diseases still do not have a high enough profile in the public and, hence, political arena. In addition, information for the general public and patients is often inaccurate and misleading.

With these points in mind, the ELF has developed an instrument to provide reliable respiratory information to a wider audience across Europe. The ELF website went live at the beginning of January, and can be

found at: www.european-lung-foundation.org.

Briefly, the website comprises three main sections: facts about normal lung function; information concerning lung diseases; and data on the risk factors that influence lung health. The site is aimed at the general public, patients and politicians.

We hope that you as an ERS Member will view this new site, and find that it is a benefit to you in your practice and a resource that you can use for your patients. As the ERS will provide the resources for the site and review any content, you will be able to rely on the site to provide the information that you want your

Specific features of the ELF website include:

- > detailed images and movies showing normal lung structure and function
- > comprehensive facts and figures on asthma, COPD, lung cancer, pneumonia, tuberculosis, cystic fibrosis, sleep apnoea and interstitial lung diseases
- > EU actions concerning tobacco, the environment, and diet and nutrition
- > information and reliable links concerning hot issues, such as avian flu
- > factsheets for patients on a range of topics
- > testimonies from patients about their disease
- > chat forum capabilities
- > reliable and trusted links to other lung associations throughout Europe
- > calendar highlighting important events in Europe